

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Concordia Lutheran Church



*40 Pitkin Street
Manchester, Connecticut, 06040*

Concordia's WHY/Purpose Statement

**To be a welcoming and inviting community empowered by the Word of God;
So that we may work for social justice and exhibit compassion for all**

September 8, 2024

Introduction: *James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.*

We prepare for worship in quiet prayer and meditation

Welcome!



Prelude

John Anderson, Organist

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for
healing.

*Please kneel as you are able. Silence is kept
for reflection.*

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
**We confess that we have honored you
with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our
tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first**

**we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the
suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of
need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus
Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Gathering

Gathering Hymn

Earth and All Stars

ELW 731

Greeting

The grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

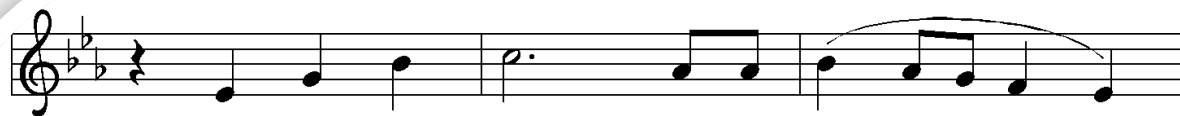
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

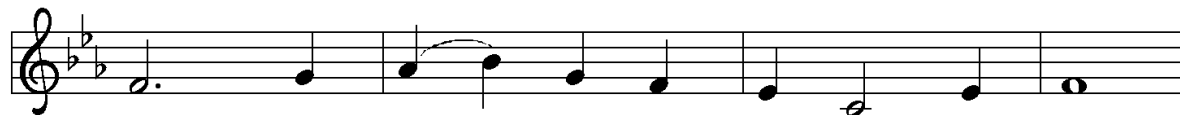
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men, a - men.

Gloria



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



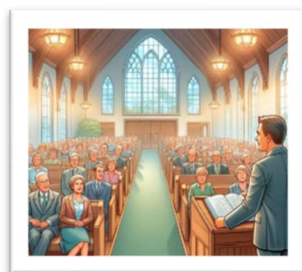
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

All are seated.



Word

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the
wilderness,

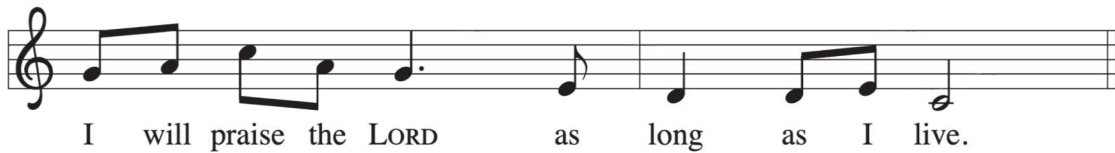
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

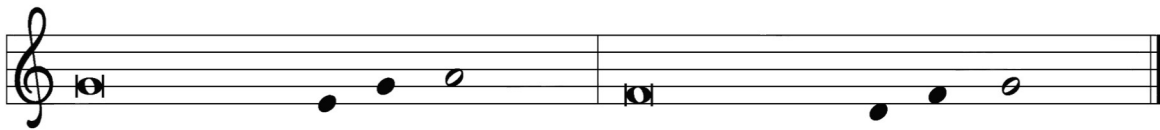
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 146



Tone



I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- turn to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish. R**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous. R**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R**

Second Reading

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love

your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

The Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the

Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.



Sermon

Reverend Rolf Hedberg

All stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



Prayers of Intercession

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need

A brief silence.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict *especially* those in Israel and Gaza, and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

All are seated.

Meal

Offertory Hymn

We Place Upon Your Table, Lord

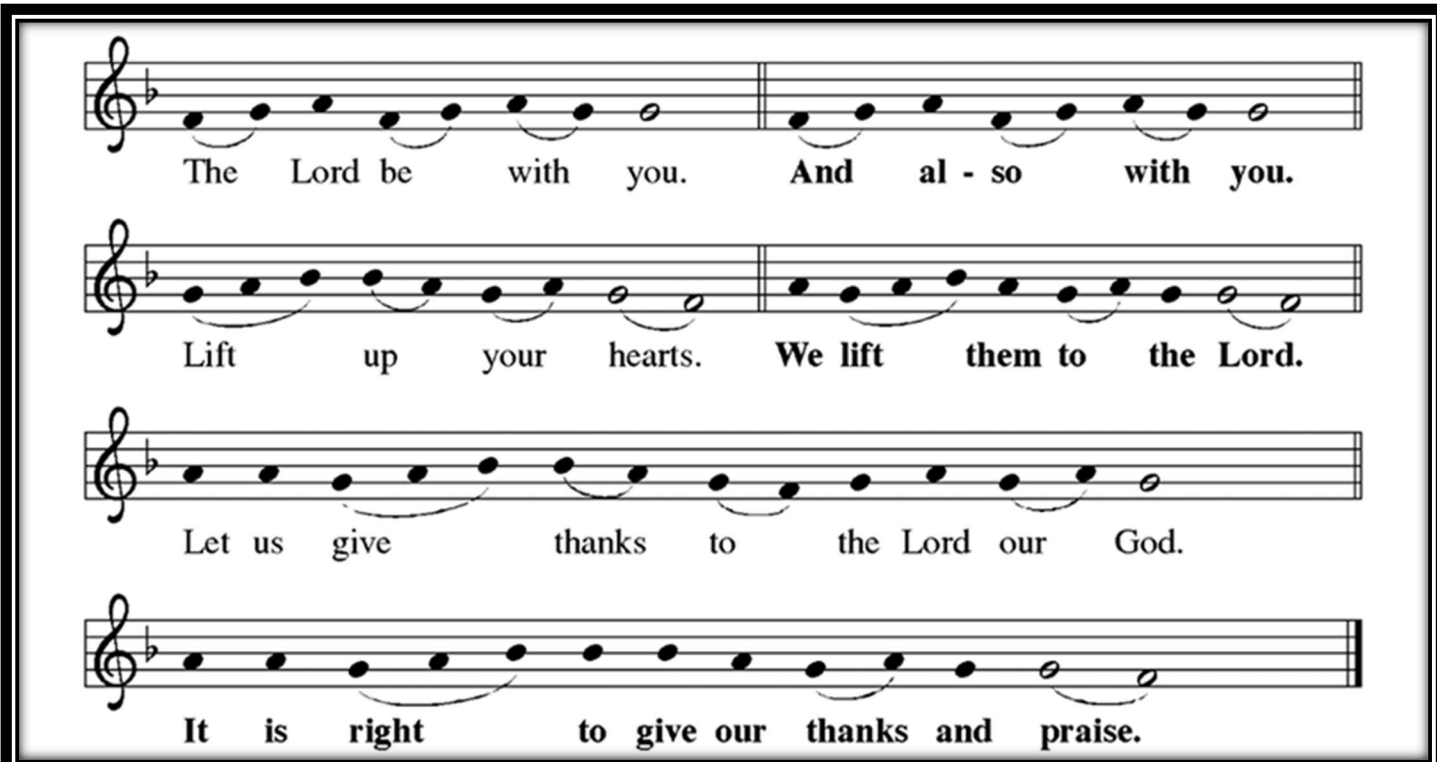
ELW 467

All stand as able.

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

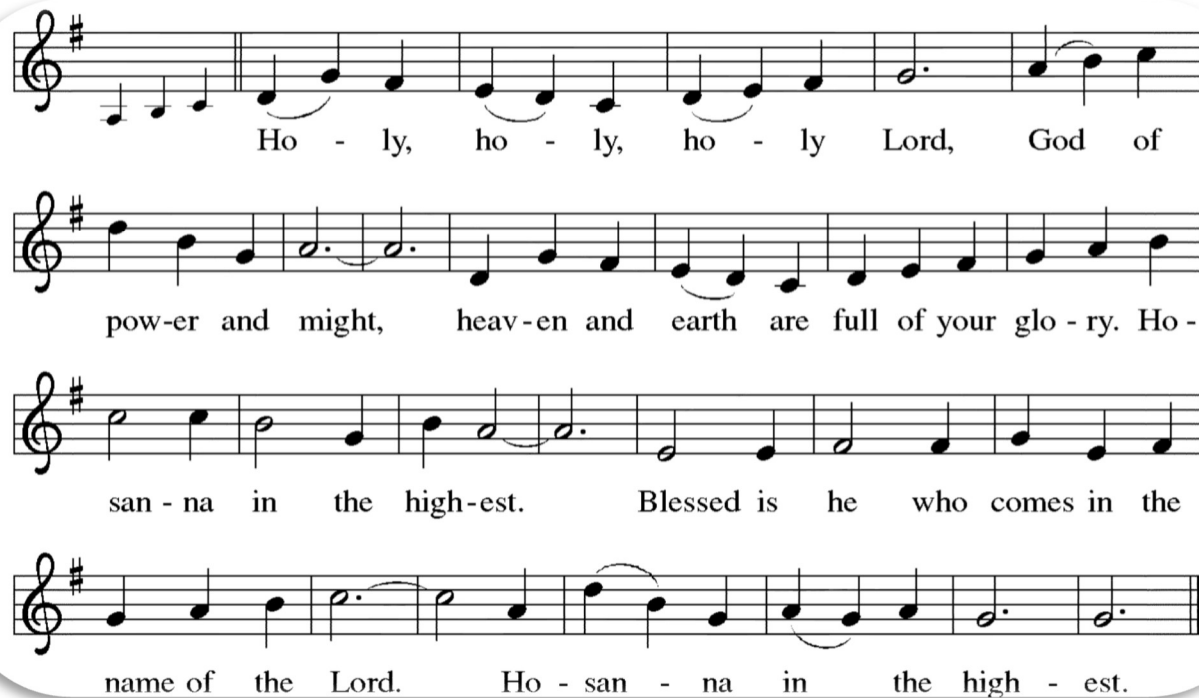


Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

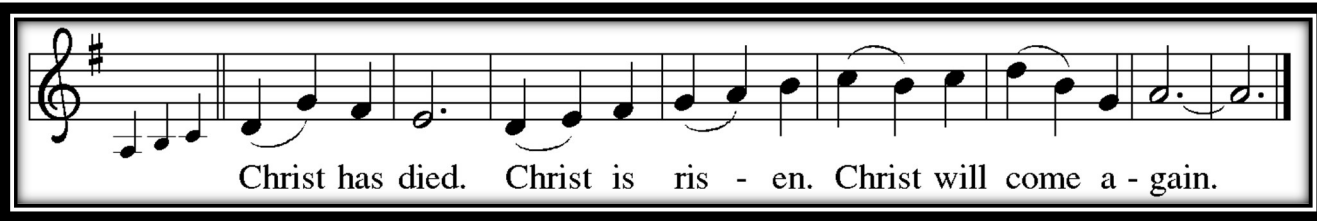
You formed the earth from chaos;
you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;
you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



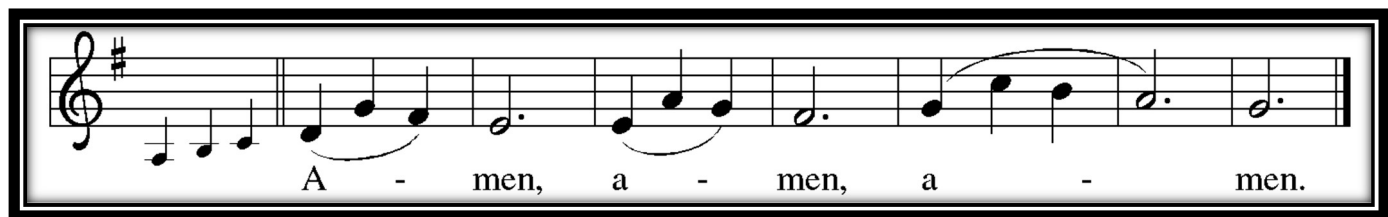
With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.



Lord's Prayer

With hearts set on God's kingdom and hands open to serve our neighbor, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



**Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

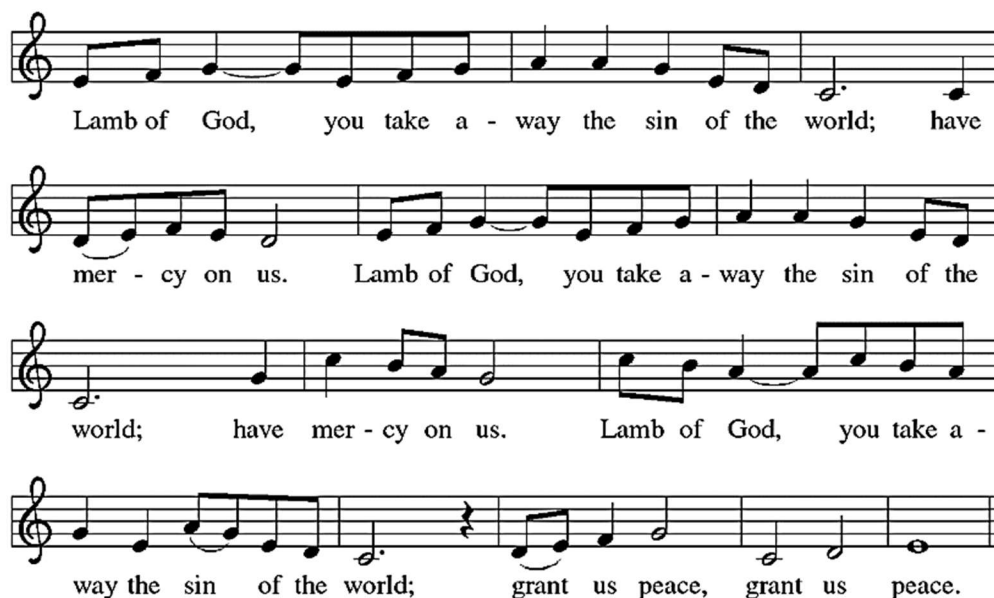
**As we forgive those
Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever,
Amen.**

Invitation

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
Come, here is your God.

All are seated.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

All stand as able.

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Holy God,
You have welcomed us to this meal
And fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
And to be at peace with one another,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

God all mighty,
God most merciful
✚ bless you, keep you,
And give you peace.
Amen.

Sending**Sending Hymn***God, Whose Almighty Word*

ELW 673

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude*John Anderson, Organist*

+++ To God Be the Glory +++

Serving in Worship Today

<i>Presiding:</i>	Reverend Rolf Hedberg	<i>Assisting Minister(s):</i>	Mark Winzler
<i>Ushers:</i>	Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio		Jeanine Barber
<i>Organist:</i>	John Anderson		

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please check out the flyers for upcoming community events!
- The Wall That Heals will be at Charter Oak Park in Manchester from September 19 – 22, please check out the flyer for more details!
- **Friendly reminder: Transition Meeting** is next Sunday, September 15th, immediately after worship.

DAILY READINGS

September 9 - 15



<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Isaiah 38:10-20	Isaiah 38:10-20	Isaiah 38:10-20	Psalm 116:1-9
Joshua 6:1-21	Joshua 8:1-23	Judges 15:9-20	Joshua 2:1-14
Hebrews 11:29—12:2	Hebrews 12:3-13	Matthew 17:14-21	Hebrews 11:17-22
<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday, September 15, Lectionary 24</u>	
Psalm 116:1-9	Psalm 116:1-9	Isaiah 50:4-9a	
Joshua 2:15-24	Joshua 6:22-27	Psalm 116:1-9	
James 2:17-26	Matthew 21:23-32	James 3:1-12	
		Mark 8:27-38	

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Prayers of the Community



Contact parish office for Prayer requests. Names will be held in prayer for 1 month, unless otherwise requested. (*Member of Concordia) (*Request by Member*) (***New Intention***)
Those who are sick or in any need,

The Donagher Family (for the passing of *Tom's father & *Wendy's father-in-law), *Nancy Lynn Knauff (*As she grieves her mother's passing*), Family of Zachary Clapp (*David Beauregard), Family of David Kaufman (as they grieve his loss, a very dear friend of *Lanie Turner), Family of *Lois Feder (*as they grieve her loss*), *Joanne Murphy, *Dan Burnett (*recovering*), Kaushik (David S.), Yolanda (Lucy's sister), Elaine Arace (Hedberg's friend who suffered serious fall), *all those across the country who have suffered loss through gun violence*, Marti Barclay (Ruth S.), *Robert Feder, Sandy (friend of Dave S.), Max (Elaine B.), Rebecca (Elaine B.), Sam Sirois, Diane Decarli (friends of Joanne M.), Cori Mackey, Ralph Sullivan (Laura Hart's father), Ava (Wendy D.), Linda Longtin Watson (Jane C.), Juliette Theroux (friend of Joanne M.), Beverly Spikers (John C.), Twylar Williams (friend of Joanne M.), Matilda Keinath (7-year-old daughter of Hedbergs' friend who is undergoing treatment for brain tumor), Kenneth Wall (friend of the Hedbergs who is undergoing treatment for cancer), Alicia and Erika (friends of Ruthie L.) who have significant health issues, *Linda Lange.

For Concordia's ongoing transition process.

The Intentions of this Community:

- ❖ Concordia Nursery School Students and their families
- ❖ The work of MACC
- ❖ For our Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop
- ❖ For Licensed Lay Minister Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creación
- ❖ For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons
- ❖ For our Friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church in Vernon.

Concordia Lutheran Church

Reverend **Rolf Hedberg**, *Transitional Pastor*
Mrs. **Margie Gallagher**, *Parish Administrator*

✉ 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040 ☎ (860)649-5311

✉ office@concordiamanchester.org 🌐 www.concordiamanchester.org



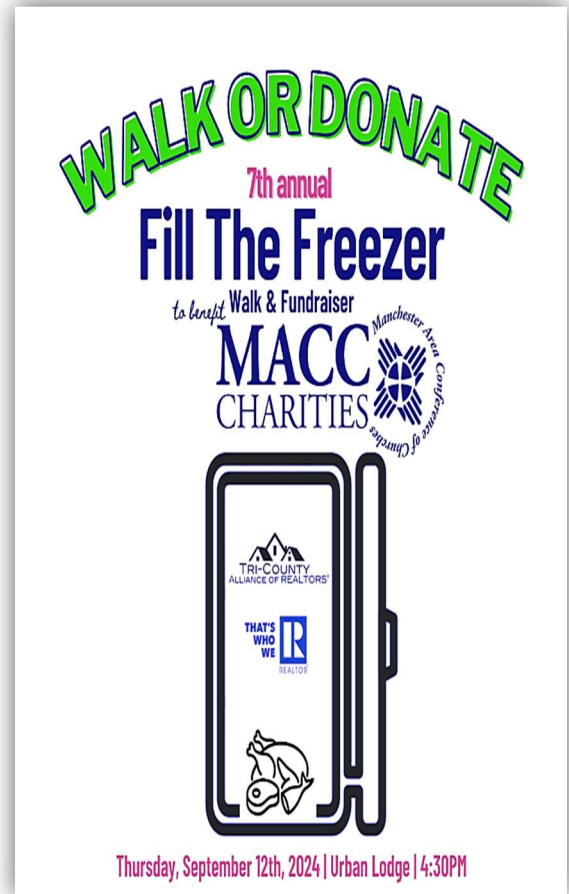
Community Upcoming Events




TROOP 123
ESTABLISHED 1957

Come out and help out our Young Citizens with their Can and Bottle Drive ~ Bring your empty cans and plastic bottles with you!

When: Saturday, September 14, 2024
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: In front of the Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester



WALK OR DONATE
7th annual
Fill The Freezer
 to benefit Walk & Fundraiser
MACC CHARITIES Manchester Area Council of Churches
 TRI-COUNTY ALLIANCE OF REALTORS®
 THAT'S WHO WE R REALTOR
 Thursday, September 12th, 2024 | Urban Lodge | 4:30PM

We encourage everyone to attend!

Transition Meeting

Facilitated by:
Associates to the Bishop
Pastor Sara Anderson
Pastor Maria Hammons

Sunday, September 15
Immediately after Worship
Kaiser Hall

The Wall That Heals Arrives Sept. 17!



Be a part of this extraordinary event of welcoming The Wall That Heals into our community. On Tuesday, September 17 at approximately noon, a large motorcycle and police escort will accompany the oversized trailer carrying The Wall That Heals into Downtown via exit 3. It will proceed up Main Street, right on Center, and right down Spruce Street into Charter Oak Park, where it will be greeted and welcomed into Town. Please come out to honor veterans and show your pride and support by lining the streets as the motorcade goes by!

Be Involved!



MARC's Charity Golf Tournament

Swing fore a cause at MARC's 25th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday, September 26th, 2024! Enjoy a full day of golf on the beautiful Manchester Country Club course to raise funds that will directly benefit adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Secure your spot in the tournament today for just \$225 per golfer!

Register Today!

Contact
(860) 646-5718